



# Serial Podcast or Research Paper Assignment

## RESEARCH PAPER

### General Information

- In general, your task is to uncover, research, and write about a major crime that occurred in the United States and left behind serious questions about who was responsible and/or whether justice was done in the case.
- You can choose a contemporary case or one from history. Just make sure to choose one that will allow you to find adequate research.
- I would give serious thought to a more contemporary or local case. That might make interviews easier.

### Information to Keep in Mind

- This project will require a lot of collaboration and planning. Because you are going to need to schedule meetings, conduct interviews, collaborate, and edit, you cannot wait until the last minute. You need to begin immediately to develop a plan and start scheduling meetings.
- Remember to have fun but treat your subject with respect.
- While you may decide to work in a group, you will be evaluated in the project both as a group and as an individual member of the group. Do not abandon your classmates. Do not expect them to do the work for you.

#### GROUP MODIFICATION

1 MEMBER: 4-5 PAGES  
 2/3 MEMBERS: 5-7 PAGES  
 4 MEMBERS: 7-8 PAGES

### Research Paper Requirements

- A researched paper of no fewer than six and no more than eight pages.
- The entire paper will demonstrate understanding of MLA format.
- The paper will contain:
  - The history of the crime.
  - Its historical/cultural significance.
  - Controversies and theories about it.
  - A discussion of ongoing concerns/questions about its resolution.
  - A discussion of how prevalent this crime is.
  - Your group's theory about what really happened.
- It is critically important that your paper include quality, academic research. If you ask for help finding good research, I will assist. Make sure to request assistance soon.
- Your paper should include a minimum of 12 sources, at least four of which need to come from academic sources.
- No more than two groups may select the same topic. If more than one does, you will need to change to a new topic.
- You may work in groups ranging in size from one to four.

### Important Dates for the Research Paper

- Topic/Group Chosen: May 4
- Outline of Paper: May 8
- Annotated Bibliography: May 15
- First Draft of Paper: May 22

## Final Draft of Paper: June 8

# Serial Podcast or Research Paper Assignment



## PODCAST

### General Information

- In general, your task is to uncover, research, and write about a major crime that occurred in the United States and left behind serious questions about who was responsible and/or whether justice was done in the case.
- You can choose a contemporary case or one from history. Just make sure to choose one that will allow you to find adequate research.

### Information to Keep in Mind

- This project will require a lot of collaboration and planning. Because you are going to need to schedule meetings, conduct interviews, collaborate, and edit, you cannot wait until the last minute. You need to begin immediately to develop a plan and start scheduling meetings.
- You should remember to have fun but treat your subject with respect.
- While you may decide to work in a group, you will be evaluated in the project both as a group and as an individual member of the group. Do not abandon your classmates. Do not expect them to do the work for you.

### Podcast Requirements for a Group of 12

- One episode that is 20 minutes long or two episodes that are 10-15 minutes long.
- A complete, revised script of your episodes.
- At least eight sources
- The podcast will contain:
  - The history of the crime.
  - Its historical/cultural significance.
  - Controversies and theories about it.
  - A discussion of ongoing concerns/questions about its resolution.
  - Your group's theory about what really happened.
- In terms of production, you will have:
  - An artistic cover for your podcast
  - An interview with at least one person (we can get creative about this)
  - Some produced sound
  - An intro and outro for the podcast
  - Sound from one of the people who visits our class
  - Complete MLA citation for all of your source material



# Serial Podcast or Research Paper Assignment

## Podcast Requirements for a Group of 3-4

- One episode that is 20 minutes long or two episodes that are 10-15 minutes long.
- A complete, revised script of your episodes.
- At least 12 sources
- The podcast will contain:
  - The history of the crime.
  - Its historical/cultural significance.
  - Controversies and theories about it.
  - A discussion of ongoing concerns/questions about its resolution.
  - Your group's theory about what really happened.
- In terms of production, you will have:
  - An artistic cover for your podcast
  - Two or more interviews included in the podcast (we can get creative about this)
  - Produced sound
  - Sound from one or more of the people who visits out class.
  - An intro and outro for the podcast
  - A web site with supplemental research, images, and details about the case.

## Important Dates for the Podcast

- Topic/Group Chosen: May 4
- Outline of Podcast Script: May 8
- Annotated Bibliography: May 15
- First Draft of Podcast Script/Sample Audio: May 22

## Final Draft of Podcast: June 8

## A Small List of Potential Topics

- Lindbergh Kidnapping
- Baker Massacre
- Emmett Till
- Zodiac Killer
- Tupac and Notorious B.I.G.
- JonBenet Ramsey
- D.B. Cooper
- Lizzie Borden
- Carlos DeLuna
- Troy Davis
- Father Kerrigan (Montana)
- Governor Thomas Meagher (Montana)
- John Crites (Montana)